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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
9 October 1952

### FORCED EVACUATIONS CONTINUE IN SATELLITE EUROPE

Forced evacuations from frontier and urban areas have been resumed this year, especially in Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Hungary, and frontier evacuations have begun in East Germany. The evacuees are transported from their homes into wastelands or slave labor camps.

In the former case, they are turned out and left to their own resources or provided new and in most cases considerably inferior quarters. In some instances, deportees are furnished with documents which restrict them permanently to one area.

In recent years, the evacuations have fallen into two general categories, security and economic. The security evacuations frequently have become mass transfers of villagers and farmers out of areas adjacent to enemy frontiers, designed to produce a deserted zone physically difficult to cross and devoid of elements in sympathy with the enemy.

Economic evacuations have involved the removal of individuals and families from urban dwellings needed by the authorities for office space or to house incoming industrial laborers and bureaucrats. The evacuees here are those labeled "unproductive" by the regime: the aged, pensioners, independent shopkeepers, engineers, architects and the like. This class also is the most dangerous from the Communist security viewpoint. In certain instances, persons or groups regarded as obstructive have been earmarked for deportation on purely political grounds.

The Bulgarian, Rumanian, Hungarian and Czech regimes had all effected both security and economic evacuations of large numbers of people by 1952 and in Poland there had been some combing out of cities. In the security area along the Polish Baltic coast, already partly depopulated by the postwar evacuation of Germans, there were deportations of "untrustworthy" elements during 1950 and 1951.

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Along Rumania's frontier with Yugoslavia, and in a narrow sector of Czechoslovakia adjacent to the US Zone of Germany, the evacuations were extensive, leaving only a few people. In other frontier areas, as in the cities, there has been a more selective weeding out.

Recent deportations in Rumania, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have primarily affected urban populations. Many of the Hungarian towns affected are located in areas adjacent to Yugoslavia and Austria, and are not major industrial centers. However, major producers such as Budapest, Miskolc and Pecs were also hard hit during June, July and August.

In Rumania, small but steady evacuations have been going on in the Constanta seacoast area, and in Bucharest, Stalin (Brasov) and other industrial cities since early spring. Deportees from industrial centers in both Hungary and Rumania have been sent to areas where cheap or forced labor is needed.

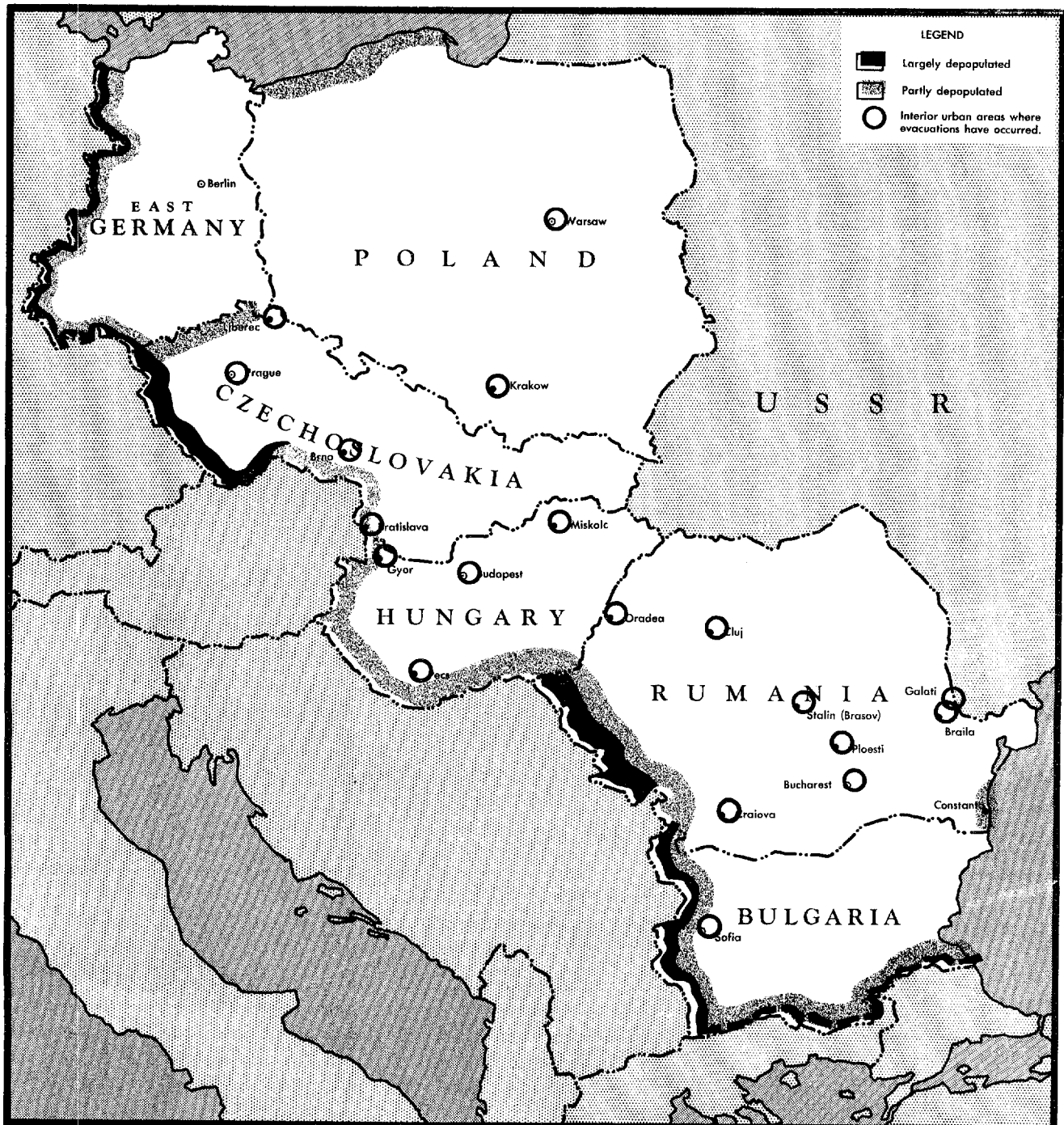
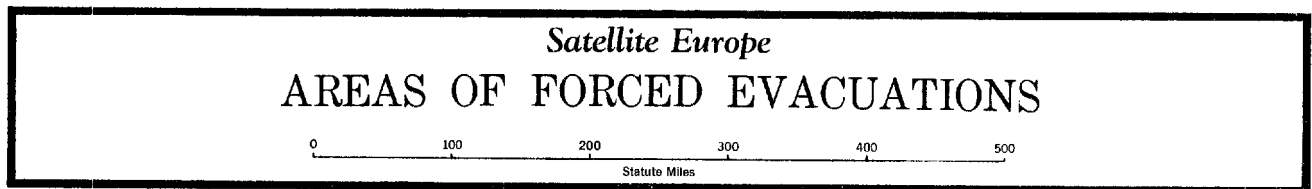
Evacuations from Prague, Bratislava, Brno, Liberec, and probably from other Czech industrial cities, have been going on since July. Evacuation methods in Czechoslovakia were as brutal in the past as those in the other Satellites, but there has been a recent change to milder measures.

East Germany has seen no substantial evacuation of city dwellers, but this summer a large number of people were removed from the area adjacent to West Germany as drastic frontier security controls came into force.

On the whole, the 1952 Satellite evacuations have been aimed at the urban areas, but it is clear that the combing out of frontier security sectors is continuing. There is no apparent urgency in these measures from an area-wide point of view. They represent a policy of methodical depopulation of frontier areas to create zones of vacuum, and of eventual removal from the industrial centers of "unproductive" middle class elements.

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